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South China Morning Post

'Fresh talent ready to be discovered' by Bonnie E. Engel

Fresh talent ready to be discovered

Young artists from Asia-Pacific and beyond are given a showcase, writes **Bonnie E. Engel**

Hall the fans of art fairs in discovering new artists and gaining fresh perspectives on art. Here are a few of the younger artists to watch for in Art Basel HK, most are found in the Insights section, comprised exclusively of Asian or Asia-Pacific regional galleries, and in the Discoveries section.

Manila gallery Art Infinitum was established in 2004 by a clique of contemporary Filipino artists as an initiative to bring art and its practice closer to the community. Owner Tina Fernandez says, "We participated in Art HK12 and now in Art Basel in HK."

"We are featuring award-winning Peter Van-Salmon, with her *Check What You Can Eat*, and internationally recognized Marissa Cruz, who is bringing *Delicate Duplications*, in a presentation of two women artists who have quite similar paths in life as mothers, wives and artists, each depicting their unique perspectives on personal histories."

The Drawing Room, also from Manila, is exhibiting France-based Gaudin Durrant's *Jahil*, which has its roots in the indigenous Baguio area of the Philippines, and he relates this to his investigation of ethnographic objects in this particular context. The Hindu-curved figure of the Bhagavati god encased in glass dust. Artist Mark Sadravats brings his continuing *Wrapped* series including *Untitled*.

Knives, which weaves a utilitarian rock, the knife, and arranges many of them into a diptych reflecting to opposing senses of conflict.

Lacoste, a platform for Brazilian art galleries abroad, guided the participation of three major Brazilian galleries - Casa Trindade, Galeria Nova Breda and Mendes Wood DM - at Art Basel HK, with Casa Trindade introducing Portuguese artist Joana Vasconcelos' *Amoroso* and Sem Título by Mariana Palma, an artist whose colorful painted compositions are inspired by the Bauhaus.

From Athens, Kadavya Galleries will present in the Discoveries section a curated two-artist show with works by Syrian photographer Hani Sachawan and Lebanese artist Hani Vassil.

Peggy Houldsworth Gallery

EMERGING ARTISTS

from London is showing among Francesco D'Amato from New York with an installation comprising a large-scale painting and several ceramic sculptures. Through the fragmentation and collision of styles across both media, the artist aims to create a conceptual space in which one can question the truth and hierarchies of painting.

Australian gallery Ursula Skerps features *Sacred Medium* from the Netherlands, who revisits the notion of painting through the production of two marble table sculptures, two hanging tapestries and an assortment of ceramic and marble sculptures presented in mirrored pairs.

Hong Kong's Galerie Cha Cha is showing the Hong Kong Young Artist 2012 Award winner, Halley Cheng, and her latest plywood painting installation series. She uses common writing tools, such as pencils, ballpoint pens and markers, to draw tiny, fragmented images that slowly together reveal characters, scenes and other objects, projecting a jumbled reality.

2F Contemporary Art Gallery

can be found in the Discoveries section presenting a solo exhibition by Tang Kwok-hin, a Hong Kong mixed-media artist and independent curator. He employs ready-made social symbols and contexts to reconstruct ordinary comprehension, but creating emotions towards different people, things and issues. The exhibition includes *Four Doors* and *Food Cabinet*.

Galerie du Monde from Hong Kong is exhibiting an installation work entitled *Emergency Zone* by the young Hong Kong artist Lam Tung-pang, a painter who reflects some of the angst of youth over the deterioration of the planet.

In the Insights section, keep an eye out for the Hong Kong-based *Tehaoui Madras Gallery*, which is presenting a solo show by emerging Chinese artist Cai Kunming entitled *A Sleepwalker's World*. His paintings explore the inner turmoil of a young Chinese generation facing constant change. "Hong Kong, the most exciting place to witness the current changes in Asia, and Art Basel, simply the best fair. The art world will rock," Mulligan says.

Osage Gallery, also from Hong Kong, is offering a mixed display of works by 12 artists from around the Asia-Pacific region, including Ai Hui-hui (*My Father Is Over the Clouds*), Kingsley Ng and Ng I-hon Kai.

Of course, this is only a tiny sampling of all the young artists being featured in the fair. Consult the event's catalogue for more information.



Amoroso by Joana Vasconcelos



Sem Título by Mariana Palma



23 May 2013
South China Morning Post
'Pick of the Day'

C6 Thursday, May 23, 2013

✓ Editor's pick
▶ Last call ◀ Just opened

GOING OUT

The Planner

Exhibitions

✓ **Japanese Wicks of Art**

Exhibition devoted to decorative objects used in interior settings during the Meiji and Edo periods. **May 23, Mon-Sat, 10am-7pm, Sun, 11am-5pm**, Ashfield Gallery, 248-249 Prince's Building, 10 Chater Rd, Central. **Inquiries:** 2537 6370. **Ends** May 23 ▶▶

Wildlife Drama

Japanese artist Gekko Numata's paintings take a playful look at wildlife. **May 23, Tue-Sat, 11am-4pm**, My Gallery, shop B, G/F, 26 Western St, Sai Ying Pui. **Inquiries:** 3409 3832. **Ends** May 23 ▶▶

✓ **Asia Contemporary Art Show**

Exhibition with around 2,000 works from

of video installations. **Mon-Sat, 10am-6.30pm**, Mui Fung Hui Art Gallery, G/F, 20 Ice House St, Central. **Inquiries:** 2580 0094. **Ends** Jun 3 ◀

Performing Arts

Blue Note Monthly

fest. Claude Diaz Situation

The Swiss jazz trio in concert.

May 23, 7pm, Backstage Live Restaurant, 1/F Somptuous Central, Wellington St, Central. HK\$200 backstagefive.hk. **Inquiries:** 267 8985

The Cherry Orchard

Pick of the day



Art Basel

The international art show makes its Hong Kong debut with 245 galleries displaying paintings, sculptures, drawings, installations, photographs and videos by more than 2,000 artists from around the globe, including Cai Xinning's *Tabooed Game*, left. **Opens today.**

Noon-7pm, HKCEC, Hall 1 & 3, 1 Expo Drive, Wan Chai. HK\$250-HK\$750 HK. Ticketing. **Inquiries:** artbasel.com/en/Hong-Kong. **Ends** May 26

ASIAN CLIENTS ARE BUYING ART FOR ITS BEAUTY AND CULTURE GIOVANNA BERTAZZONI, CHRISTIE'S LONDON

Christie's Chang says, "Auction experts curate a selection that has resale value. So even if you don't have an in-depth knowledge of a certain piece, you won't be too far off."

Chak, for example, is still a regular at auctions, even though he's able to acquire pieces from different sources.

"Having too many choices can be overwhelming. Before I go to the auction, I always shortlist about five pieces and prioritise so I know my targets and expectations," he says.

Another option is to go straight to the artists, dealers, galleries and art fairs.

Art Basel Hong Kong, for example, has been the city's biggest annual art event since 2007. The 2013 edition opens on May 23 and will bring together more than 250 galleries representing 35 countries, which are in town to showcase their artists.

The impressive line-up includes famous galleries, such as Galerie Gmurzynska, Gagosian

Gallery and Galerie Perrotin. Galleries also brush up their exhibition line-ups outside of the fair venue at the Convention and Exhibition Centre in the wake of the four-day fair, such as the one-night exhibition of Keith Haring works in Central Plaza, and up-and-coming French artist Fabien Merelle's large-scale installation titled *Pentateuque* at Statue Square Gardens. "It's a great opportunity to see a huge number of galleries and lots of art in a short period of time," says Magnus Renfrew, the Asia director for Art Basel.

Unlike auction houses, which focus on the secondary market – which deals with the resale of pieces, galleries are heavy on the primary market and predominantly represent emerging artists. In these cases, experts advise caution and patience.

"Even if you like [their work] now, wait for at least three years and see how the artist matures," Beautiful Mind's Chang says. She's not all talk either. She herself waited three years before buying a small sculpture created by Fumio Yamazaki, an emerging Japanese artist she discovered a few years ago in Osaka.

Once you start building your collection, experts at galleries and auction houses can provide services catered to your specific likings. Through private sales, auction houses can offer a more tailor-made service, which has proven popular among collectors. Riding on their vast connections and databases, auction firms are able to match an artwork with a potential client and track down specific pieces for interested buyers, a process done with the utmost discretion.

"[Art] is at the top tier of luxury goods. We are dedicated to finding the product for you, which is not simply a watch, a pair of shoes but a Picasso," says Giovanna Bertazzoni, head of impressionist and modern art at Christie's London.

This process is well worth the effort, as it is extremely lucrative for the auction house. It is also beneficial to the collector because even though in





LEFT
Cat Xiongli's Tubocod Game will be on display at Art Basel Hong Kong, opening on May 23.

ABOVE
Allegory of the Unfolding Sky by Zao Wou-ki will also be on show.

ABOVE RIGHT
Zao Wou-ki's 2008 watercolour on rag paper, Untitled (La Crevasse), Courtesy of FEAST Projects

most cases the client ends up paying about 25 per cent more than the estimated price at an auction, they can avoid the auction process where the sky is the limit, and an equally enthusiastic collector would push the final bid much higher. The service is exclusive and reserved for high-profile collectors. From May 23 to 26, Christie's Hong Kong will stage its first private sales exhibition of impressionist and modern arts, headlined by iconic Picasso works.

Without following an auction calendar, the duration of a private sale transaction can take a few days to half a year. Depending on the artist or the type of art you're looking for, there's a chance that an art gallery would be able to offer a more efficient transaction.

"We have very busy exhibition schedules, so a client knows that we came across certain artists and would ask us for certain pieces. If it's on the market, then we can help fetch a deal," Malingue says. "The process is usually faster than going through auction houses."

Prospects are high for the art market in Asia and industry know-hows see a much more sophisticated herd of collectors in this part of the world. "They are becoming increasingly demanding and selective," Renfrew says. "Five years ago, people would go buy a piece from a big name artist but now they look for a piece from a particular date or of a subject from that artist."

Bertazzoni agrees that it's not all in the name anymore. "Asian clients are cultivated. They are not buying it as if they buy a Ferrari just to show off. They buy art for its beauty, culture and refinement." X



MAESTRO'S LEGACY

Hailed as a maestro who revolutionised Chinese painting with abstract modern Western aesthetics, the late French-Chinese artist Zao Wou-ki's artworks have been topping the wish-list of seasoned collectors across the globe.

"In the 70 years [of his career], Zao has produced less than 1,500 oil paintings. His works are rare, considering that well-known contemporary Chinese painters produce many more paintings than that in 20 years," says veteran art dealer Philippe Koutouzis, who exhibited Zao's watercolours at gallery FEAST Projects last year.

The artist's recent death – last month at his Switzerland residence at the age of 93 – made his artworks even more coveted.

"The death of every important painter triggers a process of assessment carried out by the market and scholars at the same time," Koutouzis says.

"This process should point out which works are the most significant in the development of his expression."

Zao's limited creative output fuelled interest among collectors, especially those in Taiwan and on the mainland. In 2011, record sales of his works made Zao a top-selling, living Chinese artist at auctions. In the week of his death, a rare diptych of his titled *10.03.83* fetched HK\$37 million at a Sotheby's sale in Hong Kong, where he holds a record of nearly HK\$70 million for a single piece.

Born in an affluent banker family in Beijing in 1920, Zao was one of the second generation Chinese artists who apprenticed with Lin Fengmian – founder of Hangzhou Academy – and one of the pioneers of Chinese painters who later relocated to France. Zao's artworks have been painstakingly documented by Françoise Marquet, his wife of 40 years.

"Zao's death marks the end of a period, but also the beginning of another one," Koutouzis says. "He was an actor during a long period of modern history, now he belongs to history and will certainly be the first artist of Chinese origin to join the likes of Picasso, Pollock and Rothko in the pantheon of modern art."

May 2013

Blouin Artinfo

'Art Basel HK Sneak Peek'

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Edouard Malingue Gallery (Hong Kong)

Cui Xinming

The Bewitched Years, 2013

Oil on canvas

150 x 180 cm

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